IMAGINE Act of 2018
Section by Section

The Innovative Materials in American Grid and Infrastructure Newly Expanded (IMAGINE) Act is designed to encourage the research and use of innovative construction materials and techniques in order to speed up the deployment and extend the life of transportation and water infrastructure projects. This legislation will advance the study and deployment of projects which utilize cutting edge materials and techniques which help speed construction and are more resilient to flooding and corrosion.

Section 1: Short Title
Innovative Materials in American Grid and Infrastructure Newly Expanded Act of 2018

Section 2: Purpose
The purpose of this Act is to encourage the research and use of innovative materials and associated techniques in the construction and preservation of the domestic infrastructure network to accelerate the deployment and extend the service life of infrastructure projects and improve its economy, resilience, maintainability, sustainability, and safety.

Section 3: Definitions
'Innovative material' is defined to include a variety of innovative materials, including, high performance asphalt mixtures and concrete formulations, geosynthetic materials, advanced alloys and metals, reinforced polymer composites, aggregate materials, advanced polymers, and other materials as determined by the appropriate agency or department head. This definition is based on the definition in Section 1173 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (P.L. 114-322).

Section 4: Creation of an Interagency Innovative Materials Task Force
A Task Force will be created to assess existing standards and test methods for the use of innovative materials in infrastructure, identify key barriers in the standards area that inhibit broader market adoption, and develop new methods and protocols, as necessary, to better evaluate innovative materials. The Task force will be chaired by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and will bring together the Federal Highway Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other applicable standards development organizations.

Section 5: Innovative Materials Hub
The Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with leaders of other relevant agencies, shall designate through a competitive selection process the development of innovative material hubs located throughout the United States to further drive research and development of different innovative materials for use in infrastructure projects.

Section 6: Research
$8 million is directed to the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center to collaborate with relevant State and Tribal agencies and other stakeholders to research and develop innovative

materials, prioritizing work targeting large span bridges, highway reconstruction and rehabilitation, rural roads, and coastal resiliency.

Section 7: Innovative Bridge Program

$60 million is provided to the FHWA for FY 2019 – 2023 for a new grant program available for the design and installation of innovative materials in bridge projects. Special consideration would be given for "at-risk" coastal bridge projects, projects in rural areas prone to inland flooding, and bridge retrofits. Domestic sourcing and nontraditional production techniques will also be given preference.

Section 8: Water Infrastructure Innovation Program

$65 million is provided to the EPA for FY 2019 – 2023 for a new grant program available for the use of innovative materials in the design and installation of wastewater transport and treatment systems and drinking water treatment and distribution systems in small to medium-sized communities. Special consideration would be given to areas prone to saltwater intrusion or flooding.